RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

JULY, 1878.

PORTRAITS OF OUR PRESIDENT, THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.

WITHIN the last few weeks three of these portraits have been brought under public notice. Two of them are oil paintings by eminent artists, and are now in the Royal Academy, forming part of the fine exhibition of pictures at Burlington House, Piccadilly. The first of these is in No. 3 gallery, and in the catalogue numbered 242. To induce the desire to see it, it is perhaps enough to say the artist is J. E. Millais, R.A. The catalogue informs us that it is painted for the Bible Society, and rumour says a thousand guineas was its cost. Whatever the cost may have been, it is not to be met by the funds of the Society, for we were informed by nearly the last paragraph of the Committee's Report, read at the Bible Meeting in May last, that "one event of the past year had afforded the Committee more than usual pleasure, viz., the presentation to them by some kind friends of a portrait painted by Millais of their noble and much-loved President." The Report went on to say "the Committee trusted that his valuable life might be spared for many years to come; and they rejoiced to feel that when it pleased God to call him hence, they would possess a most faithful likeness of their friend and patron, serving to remind them of the ready help which he had always rendered to them in every time of need,

and the noble stand which he ever made against errors."

The likeness is life-like. The gifted artist has put on canvas all of the original that was possible for him to transfer. He has certainly done his part not only skilfully, but faithfully. The facial lines, almost furrows, caused by hard work in his Master's cause; anxious thought for the welfare of suffering humanity; and the many years of public life are all depicted, not as blemishes, for each helps to make the portrait truthfully exact, unmistakable, like. The *Times*, in its review, said, "These lines in the face of the great philanthropist would be painful were they not pathetic." And in conversation with His Lordship on the subject of the portrait, he summed up his own opinion of the picture in two words—"Too like."

The other portrait will be found in No. 5 gallery, the catalogue number being 445. The artist is John Collier. Had this portrait been first seen, it would have been accepted as good—very good; but, unfortunately for Mr. Collier, it suffers from contrast with that of Millais.

The third portrait is neither in oil nor in water-colours. It is not to be found in the Royal Academy. It is, however, worthy of very honourable mention. It has been drawn on stone from a very excellent photograph lately taken. This portrait has been produced by Charles Montague, who was once a scholar in the same Ragged School of which he is now the respected and beloved superintendent. We have in this portrait a truthfully-exact likeness of Lord Shaftesbury, not as he was ten or twenty years since, but as he is now, at the venerable age of seventy-seven years.

The first proof copy issued on India paper was presented, in a suitable frame, to His Lordship's youngest

daughter, Lady Edith Ashley, at the 34th anniversary of the Ragged School Union, held on May 6th last, as an expression of gratitude for the many acts of kindness received at the hands of her father. Since then this portrait has been published both in London and in Edinburgh.

Mr. Montague has not only supplied a felt want by producing an excellent portrait in large size (inside of frame 20 inches by 28 inches), but has published it at the low price of five shillings on India paper. Copies can be had at No. 1, Exeter Hall, London.

Ragged School teachers, both voluntary and paid, have now an opportunity to possess a good portrait of their noble friend and patron. Mr. Montague is, however, afraid that five shillings, in addition to the cost of a frame, would be an investment somewhat more than very many of his fellow-helpers, in the same work-field, could very well afford; he has therefore authorised Mr. Gent to supply on application at No. 1, Exeter Hall, *any* Ragged School Teacher with a copy at half price (two shillings and sixpence), provided the application is made any time during the current month of July.

We have very carefully examined and compared these three portraits, and we have formed a decided opinion on the order of merit as to likeness, and if that opinion were asked, we would give it in the grammar form and say :—

Mr. Collier's portrait is *good*,
Mr. Montague's portrait is *better*,
Mr. Millais's portrait is *best*.

THE KINGSLAND, MILLWALL, AND ISLINGTON GOSPEL MISSION AND RAGGED SCHOOLS.

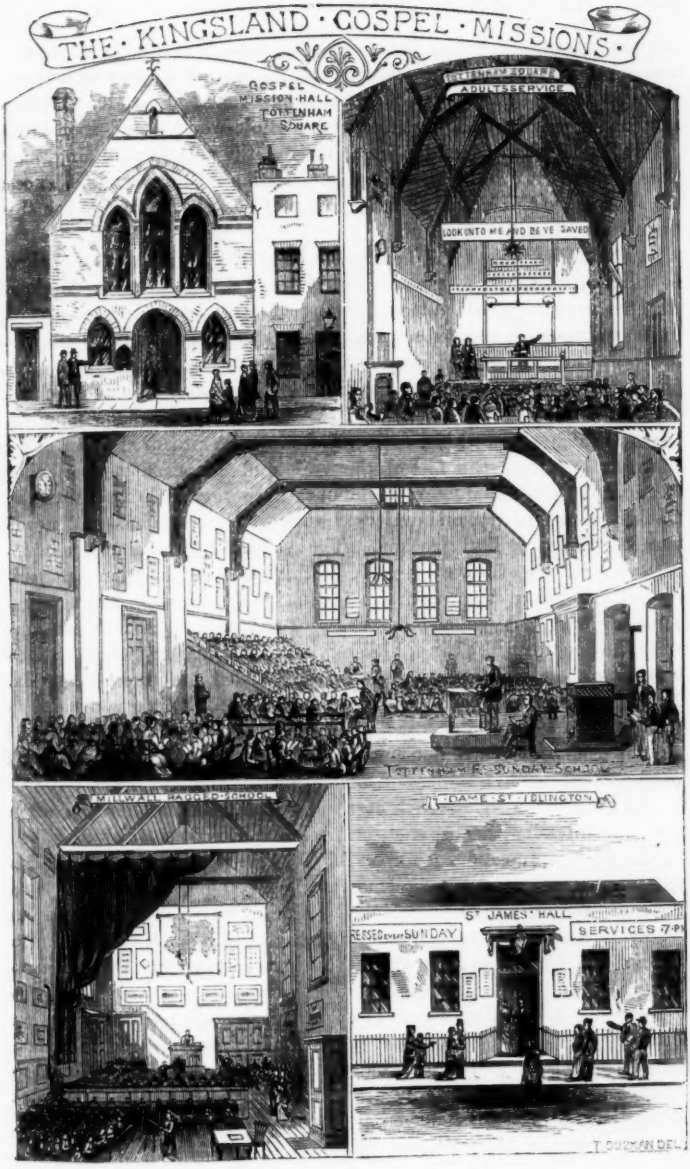
Among the various agencies of a missionary character maintaining multifarious works, at once both Christian and ameliorating, amongst the dense masses of the poor, crowded into the several districts of our huge metropolis, may be mentioned the efforts bearing the above title.

The beneficent effects these and kindred ministrations have upon our "outcast" population, morally, socially, and spiritually, are now readily conceded by all who have any experience of the poor neighbourhoods amongst which they exist. Unfettered in any sense either by ecclesiastical or conventional considerations, they readily adapt themselves to the peculiar conditions and necessities of the class of people with whom they are surrounded. Their preachers and other workers being mostly rescued themselves from the original element around, they thus possess the peculiar knowledge that experience can alone impart of the hindrances, temptations, failings, and vices common to their condition, and bringing to bear upon these the solicitude and compassion and the tenderness of Christ as helped by the Spirit of God, they are successful to a large degree in winning the confidence and respect of those they seek to benefit, while that feeling of distance and estrangement which is so commonly manifested by the lower classes towards the usual Christian ministry is avoided.

By such ministrations as are comprehended by "missions," we see exemplified most befittingly the Saviour's injunctions in the fourteenth chapter of St. Luke's Gospel "Go out quickly into the streets and *lanes* of the city and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind." While it is not too much to say that such efforts, abounding as they do in the darkest corners of our metropolis, and also in many of our largest provincial cities, must generate a most salutary influence and constitute a powerful check to the evident "socialistic" tendencies of these evil times. Their direct spiritual fruits are often most encouraging, while their full results we may well be content to leave until the Lord comes to make up His jewels. That many rescued from lives of sin and shame by such means will then be recognised as "His jewels" we are more than hopeful.

The Christian work about which we now directly write was begun about twelve years ago, and owes its origin to the personal consecration to the Lord's service of heart, life, and means of a devoted handmaid of the Lord, the esteemed widow of the revered late James Weitbrecht, the celebrated East Indian missionary.

Close to what is still known as "Kingsland Gate" there is a colony


THE · KINGSLAND · GOSPEL · MISSIONS ·
GOSPEL MISSION HALL TOTTENHAM SQUARE
TOTTENHAM COURT ADULTS SERVICE
LOOK UNTO ME AND BE YE SAVED
TOTTENHAM C.R. SUNDAY SCHOOL
MILLWALL MARCH 17 1890
CAMDEN ST ISLINGTON
ST JAMES' HALL
SERVICES 7 P.M.
OPENED EVERY SUNDAY
T. DUNMAN DEL.

of poor people, and it was in the midst of these that a large old house was taken and the necessary alterations made so as to provide a large room in the basement capable of seating about 150 people. Here a missionary was located, together with a Bible-woman, and soon after a Day School was opened for the children of the poor surrounding, and placed under the care of an estimable Christian schoolmistress. These efforts were owned of God, and many "were born there" for the kingdom of His dear Son.

After a few years of ill-health the beloved founder was compelled to relinquish her work here and seek rest and change abroad. Anxious that the work may still proceed, arrangements were made with a view to its continuance, and subsequently the present superintendent was induced, after much consideration, to take up his residence on the premises, and take the honorary oversight of the work. The Day School continued to be maintained at the expense of the gracious founder, beyond which all working expenses had to be procured from other sources; but from the fact of the work and honoured worker being of an unobtrusive character the labours were very little known to the Christian community, and practical support for its claims and needs was relatively hard to procure. The year 1870 was a crisis in its history, and one which we venture to think that a Christian less persistent and persevering than its indefatigable superintendent would have allowed to have ended its useful existence. Patient continuance, however, resulted in a blessing, and in a year or two Christians began to show fellowship, workers were added and means came in. In 1873, the need of a new mission hall being felt, it was decided to erect one capable of increased accommodation. This completed has since become the centre and home of the Mission, and has been much used and blessed to numbers of souls attending the services.

In 1875 the work arrived at a new epoch in its history, when the superintendent, whose energies had now become so fully absorbed in the work as to render it impossible for him with justice to fulfil his exhaustive duties in a large mercantile city house and continue to maintain his position as head of the Mission, after considerable exercise of heart, and in deference to the counsels of many spiritually-minded coadjutors, decided to give up his business occupation, though costing the severance of many ties, and throw all his energies into the Lord's work, counting upon Him alone for all needful supplies. Since then, as may be supposed, the work has gone on and increased both in spheres and usefulness; so that now in 1878, in addition to three buildings being statedly used for the purposes of the Mission at Kingsland, there are flourishing Branch Missions at Dame Street, Islington, and at Millwall, Isle of Dogs.

The work at Kingsland consists of the usual large and varied operations common to aggressive mission work—reaching the poor around in a multitude of ways, both out of doors and within; while as auxiliaries may be mentioned Children's Dinners, Soup Kitchen, &c., for the poorest. Additional premises have to be hired for the large numbers of children attending the Sunday School and Sunday Evening Service, also for the Ragged Night School; and in addition to the new Mission Hall in Tottenham Square a Mission Cottage is added for smaller meetings, Clothing Club, Mothers' Meetings, &c. The staff of voluntary workers gathered round the superintendent numbers over forty active Christians, in addition to which the services of an earnest Bible-woman are secured through the kindness of the Bible and Domestic Mission.

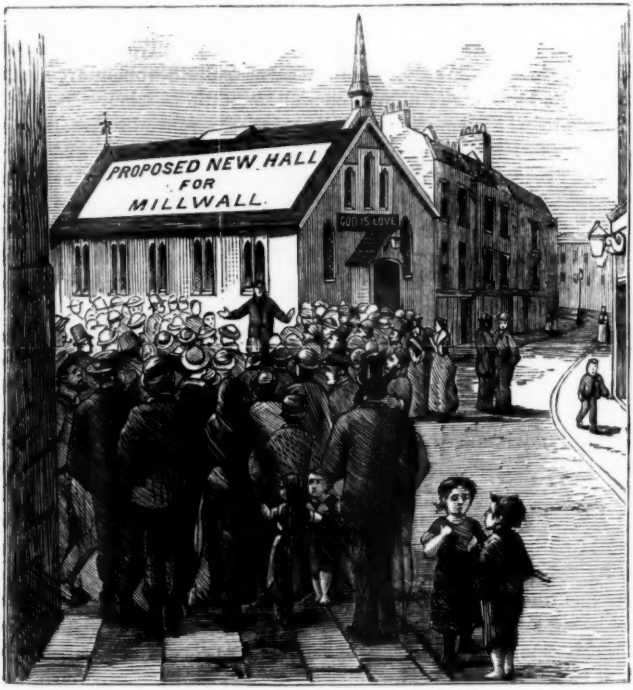
The work at Dame Street, Islington, comprehends preaching the Gospel in the Hall and open air, meetings for instruction and prayer, and a large Sunday School. A Bible-woman visits the surrounding poor neighbourhood. This station is favoured with a most earnest band of workers, who literally go out and compel the people to come in, the result being that, though the Mission is of recent date, the Mission Hall is filled with attentive audiences, and many persons are now rejoicing in the Lord.

It remains to add a word about the Christian work at Millwall. This Mission, which is now included in the operations of the Kingsland Gospel Mission, was commenced ten years since, at a time when the island was the scene of bitter distress consequent upon the strike of the ship-builders and the failure of several large ship-building yards. The island has worn a forlorn aspect ever since. Some of the once-flourishing yards are now put to other purposes, and some are idle still. Albeit, here are ten thousand of poor people among whom spiritual effort is at a very low ebb indeed. The work mentioned here, after passing through various vicissitudes, still holds on its way, and some twelve months since came under the care of the work at Kingsland; and considering the short space it has been under the care and management of this Mission, a large increase of activity has prevailed and a good campaign has been sustained. Weeks of special meetings have been arranged and carried out with success; the services of a Christian missionary have for several months been retained there, specially working among the poor and realising much acceptance and blessing. A most interesting Sunday School has been started, and a prosperous Ragged School has been founded, for which there is abundant room and need. Remarkable blessing has attended this last effort, and several of the older lads have become hopeful Christians. A Mission Day School for the children of the poorest is also conducted here on Scriptural

principles by a certificated governess and qualified teachers, the charge of which, we should say, is undertaken by the directors of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution.

We are now happy in mentioning an effort Mr. Chorley is making to provide a new and more commodious Mission Hall for this interesting work at Millwall.

The room now used was simply extemporised ten years since, and has been in considerable dilapidation for some time. When the work was



taken over the roof was so decayed and fallen that the sky could freely be seen, while every storm of rain completely flooded the room; this, however, has been temporarily repaired. This state of things, together with a want of sanitary accommodation, has hindered the Day School from being placed on the list as "efficient," which, with the absence of the owner and the primary unsuitableness of this old room, renders it necessary to immediately seek for other premises, as nothing can be found in the neighbourhood to serve the purpose.

The Committee are therefore compelled to build a new mission room. Deeply urged by these trying circumstances, the Lord has been sought in much prayer, and mention is thankfully made that a piece of ground is now offered in a most eligible position, and about half of the amount required, £500, has been raised. So far thanks aregiven that the Lord has cleared the way; but being resolved not to go into debt, they are still waiting for what remains to make up the sum necessary—about £250. We sincerely trust that this further amount will soon be forthcoming, feeling sure that, freed from the weight that now hinders, the work will go forward and prosper. We wish this the more, since, should the new premises not be forthcoming, the Ragged Day School is in danger of having to close its doors.

In concluding this brief sketch of the Kingsland Gospel Mission, we are happy in stating that while its position and prosperity is largely due to the energy and personal devotion of Mr. Chorley, under the blessing of God, yet he is not unassisted in the details or management, which he shares with a responsible treasurer and a committee, which constitute a guarantee for efficient oversight, who also possess control over the disbursement of the whole of the funds, thus ensuring the wise outlay of the contributions with which Christians are led to favour the Mission.

The last Report says that about 20,000 tracts and small books were distributed, and over 10,000 monthly magazines of a Scriptural character were given away to the young in the various schools, with the twofold view of spiritual blessing, and to supplant the dreadful trashy literature now supplied to our youth so copiously and so cheaply. The children under the instruction of the Mission number over 800.

We learn from the last published balance-sheet that the cost of the Mission for the year ending June 30th, 1877, was £513 3s. 6d., and there was at the same time a deficiency of £10 15s. 1d.

The Annual Report, containing fuller information and list of referees, may be obtained of the superintendent, Mr. W. Chorley, 79, Norfolk Road, Islington, who would also gladly receive contributions for the work. Contributions for the new room at Millwall would also be gladly received by Mr. J. G. Gent, 1, Exeter Hall, Strand.

RAGGED SCHOOL EXTENSION IN LONDON.

When the Education Act was passed and School Boards formed, a somewhat general feeling was engendered that the Ragged School movement would "become small by degrees and beautifully less," and if the class sought, and the work done by Ragged Schools would be more effectively accomplished by the new machinery than by the old, we would have fully concurred with that feeling and sentiment. In our work and object we had no other end to serve than that of gathering in the waifs and strays of society as so much waste raw material, and, by kind and skilful culture, work it up into something useful and marketable. We knew what the good old machinery had done, and could do, but the new was untried; we therefore hesitated to make a transfer of our work, and withdraw from our workfield, without being certain of the wisdom of the act. Seven years have now elapsed since Board Schools commenced, and during that time it has been made apparent that the Board can deal with the question of elementary education as given in day schools, both generally and effectively; and as many of these schools made the fee only a penny a week, the children who attended Ragged Day Schools were gradually transferred to them. Seven years ago there were 186 Day Ragged Schools in London and suburbs, with 32,000 children, of whom about 23,000 were in daily average attendance. The transfers, &c., which have taken place in those seven years, reduce the numbers at the present time to 54 Day Ragged Schools, with about 6,000 children, of whom about 5,000 are in daily average attendance. While this diminution has been going on, extensions of the Ragged School or mission movement have been made in all other departments, and to an extent that we scarcely expected. The returns made to the Parent Society by the authorities of the local schools last spring have been very carefully entered. On comparing the totals with those of the two preceding years, the extensions to which we refer become evident.

We give the figures in the following form, which will be gratifying to our friends and supporters:—

The Progress

made by the Ragged School Union during the last two years:—

	The Figures for 1875-6.	The Figures for 1876-7.	The Figures for 1877-8.	Two Years' increase.	Two Years' decrease.
Sunday Schools:					
Average attendance of Scholars	27,708	28,460	29,531	1,823	—
Day Schools:					
Average attendance of Scholars	5,678	5,189	4,669	—	1,009

	The Figures for 1875-6.	The Figures for 1876-7.	The Figures for 1877-8.	Two Years' increase.	Two Years' decrease.
Night Schools:					
Average attendance of Scholars	4,318	4,916	5,156	838	—
Total of Scholars	6,683	8,782	9,218	2,535	—
Paid Teachers employed... ...	234	237	244	10	—
Voluntary Teachers	2,600	2,673	2,608	8	—
Do. Average attendance	1,930	2,073	2,019	89	—
Do. Formerly Scholars	200	221	228	28	—
Prayer Meeting attendance ...	3,490	4,412	4,275	785	—
Children's Religious Services:					
Average attendance	4,617	5,832	6,401	1,784	—
Ragged Churches:					
Average attendance	7,188	8,152	8,335	1,147	—
Lending Library, Vols.	18,033	18,074	18,968	935	—
Scholars placed in Situations ...	659	787	699	40	—
Scholars' Prizes	509	544	570	61	—
Penny Banks:					
Depositors	18,338	28,484	32,155	13,817	—
Total of Deposits	£9,971	£11,459	£12,222	£2,251	—
Balances at end of year ...	£2,359	£2,289	£1,859	—	£500
Mothers' Meetings:					
Average attendance	2,606	3,639	3,865	1,259	—
Clothing Clubs:					
Contributions	£938	£1,313	£1,277	£339	—
Men's Clubs, Members	1,547	1,218	1,500	—	47
Weekly Dinners:					
Number given	50,000	53,549	62,382	12,382	—
Bands of Hope:					
Members	4,280	5,589	5,694	1,414	—
Weary Workers' Rest	22	26	—	—	—
Shoe-blacks:					
Boys Employed...	373	385	373	—	—
Earned by Boys	£11,658	£12,062	£12,393	735	—
Finances of Schools:					
Schools reporting their accounts	89	88	87	—	2
Receipts of those reporting ...	£13,586	£15,065	£14,426	£840	—
Payments do. do. ...	£14,130	£15,488	£15,503	£1,363	—
Schools not reporting accounts	59	63	73	14	—
Estimated income of all the Schools	£22,540	£25,850	£26,503	£3,963	—
Estimated expenditure of all the Schools	£23,498	£26,576	£28,514	£5,016	—
Balance Sheet of R. S. U.:					
Receipts...	£4,194	£7,127	£5,142	£948	—
Of these the legacies were ...	£1,007	£3,464	£1,762	£755	—
Expenditure	£3,446	£6,290	£4,745	£1,299	—

CHRISTIAN WORK IN LONDON FOR BETTERING THE CONDITION OF THE VERY POOR.

THE great annual gathering of Christian workers in Ragged Schools was held in May under the auspices of the Ragged School Union, when the Committee was able to submit to them the results of the year's efforts.

PLANS, OBJECTS, AND PRINCIPLES.

The Committee have steadily in view the one great object which the Society was established to effect—viz., to introduce amongst the most miserable and neglected outcasts in London some knowledge of the commonest principles of morality and religion; to commence their recognition as immortal human creatures before the gaol chaplain becomes their schoolmaster, and to suggest to society that its duty to this wretched throng, foredoomed to crime and punishment, rightfully begins at some distance from the police-court. To give effect to these principles, and to realise this great object, the Committee, from want of funds, had to adopt the simplest plans and most inexpensive machinery. They had to use adapted buildings in the centre of wretched rookeries, and to enlist an unpaid agency to do the work. So simple was the scheme in its incipient stage as to bring down upon the Society the taunt that they were dealing in mere palliatives. The Committee did not then, nor do they now, deny the charge. They rather plead guilty to the soft impeachment, and rejoice that they have palliated so much. When the history of the Ragged School movement is written it will be seen that the inception of these palliatives was but little, if any, less than a Divine inspiration, and carried out by men and women who seemed to be raised up, fitted, and commissioned by God Himself to go and do this special work. If so, no wonder the "little one became a thousand, and the small one a strong nation."

The Committee have from the beginning of the Society's operations acted on the principle that schools for the poor could, and ought to be, unsectarian without being secular, and, at the same time, founded on a Scriptural basis, pervaded with a religious influence, though not teaching the formularies peculiar to any one section of the Christian Church. Upon this principle they continued to act, and it has been no small pleasure to notice, in these days, when elementary education has received a remarkable impetus from recent Education Acts, that

the principle that guided them has been substantially adopted by the School Board for London, and has also been approved and acted upon by a large majority of the School Boards in England and Wales.

Sunday Schools

are carried on with vigour by a noble band of 2,608 volunteer workers. They have been designated "well-tried warriors," who are "engaged in a work calculated to promote the glory of God and the welfare of man. It is not logic, nor oratory, nor illustration, nor originality that converts; it is truth, God's truth, and that often spoken in the simplest way, by the plainest persons. This has been, and still is, the wisdom of God, and the power of God unto salvation. A verse of Scripture read, explained, illustrated, is made the subject of catechetical examination and faithful but loving exhortation, from no lofty separation as between teacher and taught, but as on a common level of one brother speaking to another of their mutual salvation. It is this communion of brotherhood which supplies the electric spark that has kindled the dormant energies of many a heart—has stirred up and interested them in things long despised. By such teaching the Gospel has become like a broad river pursuing its meandering way, fertilising the dry and neglected by-ways of earth." These volunteer teachers carry on their work in 183 schools, and have in average attendance nearly 30,000 children.

The Night Schools

have increased in number during the year from 153 to 175, and the average attendance has gone up in the same time from 4,916 to 5,156.

The new scheme for increased grants in aid of Night Schools, adopted two years since, has been accepted by the friends of local schools as a real benefit. Without it, many must have succumbed to the increased difficulties arising from the loss of friends and supporters by removal or death, and a consequent diminution in their funds.

The Children's Services

have continued to be conducted. The number is 82, the attendance is 6,401. The service is conducted in the simplest manner possible, the hymns well known and sung to tunes frequently in use, the prayers earnest but short, and the Scripture selected for reading mostly the parables and the miracles of our Lord, which furnish abundant material for a little address of about fifteen to twenty minutes.

Ragged Churches.

These are conducted in 76 buildings, and the average total attendance at them is 8,335 persons, which is an increase during the year of 183. In many cases these services are conducted by laymen who desire to make known to others the great salvation of which they have themselves been the subjects. City missionaries have here rendered invaluable services, and clergymen and ministers have given kindly countenance and influence. The time chosen is made to suit the convenience and leisure of the largest numbers that are likely to attend, and the services are never long; and, to avoid tediousness or listlessness, which would soon manifest itself, hymns are sung to cheerful, well-known tunes, in which, as far as possible, all are induced to join.

Scholars in Situations.

The number of young people leaving the schools yearly to enter upon the struggles of life for a living is known to be very great. They are older than they used to be when beginning thus to enter upon the active business duties of life, owing to the Education Act, 1870, having a legal claim upon them for school attendance till they reach the age of thirteen years. Of course, many scholars get into places without the aid of the school friends, who are often in ignorance of the fact, and without a record of it on the school books. The records of 57 schools, however, show that 699 of their scholars became servants in some form or other. The number is considered far below the actual number, but, taking it as the basis for all the schools, whose

Scholars Entered Situations

during the year 1877-8, it is clear that on this low estimate 2,250 boys and girls began self-support by self-effort. The school's influence upon these young workers does not cease when they thus become servants, for a system of

Scholars' Prizes

has been in full use for twenty-five years. The prize consists, the first time taken, of seven shillings and sixpence, with a superior lithographed card, printed in several colours. The second and each following year it consists of a book of the value of six shillings, and one of the cards. For several years past the distribution of these prizes has taken place in Exeter Hall on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Society, when, by a little previous training, the proceedings have

been enlivened by the young people, who fill the orchestra, singing a variety of school pieces, anthems, &c.

The award of the prizes is strictly in accordance with a series of conditions made well known in all the schools. It is also equally well known that in every case the fulfilment of each condition will be imperatively required.

From 57 schools 603 applications were made for prizes for that number of servants. On a scrutiny it was found that 19 boys and 14 girls could not prove their eligibility according to the conditions laid down, and they have been passed over. The successful applicants are 237 boys and 333 girls. Of these 158 boys and 193 girls have gained the prize for the first time, and therefore take it in money, while 79 boys and 140 girls have had awarded the first prize, and now come up again, most for the second prize, but some, on this occasion, take the prize for the fifth time. Compared with last year there is an increase of 28 applicants, and an increase of 36 that have been successful. The girls have once more outnumbered the boys. In the first eleven years the boys had the majority, but the girls have held it now for fourteen years.

The Girls' majority in	1874 was	.. 2
,, ,,	1875	.. 32
,, ,,	1876	.. 80
,, ,,	1877	.. 96

The prize book was "John Bunyan: an Autobiography," with twenty illustrations. The prize card, as in former years, is the work of Mr. Montague, who, *con amore*, enters with spirit into the subject, not forgetting that twenty-four years since he was one who claimed and took one of these prizes.

Penny Banks

during the last year have been busy places. They have been conducted in 74 schools, being an increase during the year of 5 banks. The number of depositors has been 32,155; the year's increase was 3,671, which is larger than could have been expected, seeing that the increase in the year before reached the unprecedented number of 10,146. The amount deposited has not been in proportion to the increase of depositors. The total amount reached £12,222 8*s*. 9*d*., which is an increase on the year of £763 0*s*. 6*d*. The total sum dealt with seems large, but, on an average, it is only 7*s*. 3¾*d*. to each depositor.

The returns lately received show that at the close of the year's transactions the total of the balances amounted to £1,859 13*s*. 6*d*., which is less by £430 19*s*. 10*d*. than in the year before. This, taken in connection with the large increase of depositors, indicates that there has

been a strain on the resources of these poor people. War paralysing trade, and the struggles between labour and capital, are chargeable with increasing the sufferings and the poverty of the poor.

There has been a large increase to

The Mothers' Meetings.

They are now conducted in 83 schools, and the members have increased to 3,865. The increase on the last year has been 226 members. The number of members has very nearly doubled in the last two years. This is fraught with great encouragement, for the mother's influence in the family, rightly directed, is almost irresistible with both husband and children.

The Clothing Clubs

are helpful in improving the personal appearance, protecting health, and furnishing useful employment to girls and young women, in making garments in most cases, and in repairing clothing in others.

These clubs have been carried on in 44 schools, and the money paid in has amounted to £1,277 8*s.* 4*d.*, which has been employed in obtaining the material at wholesale prices, giving the members the full benefit of the transaction.

Various Clubs and other Efforts

are made for meeting the necessities of the poor, as they are found locally to exist, and in the power of the school friends to meet. Among these the following are conducted.

Shoe Clubs, where serviceable shoes or boots are supplied, at the smallest cost, to be prepaid by weekly instalments.

Coal Clubs, which supply the members with good coal in small quantities at wholesale prices.

Benefit Clubs, providing weekly sums to the members during illness, secured by weekly payments of a few pence.

Emily Loan Funds, commenced by Lord Shaftesbury in memory of Emily, the late Countess of Shaftesbury, from which loans are made to poor women to provide stock-in-trade, or the means for getting a living; it may be—

A Potato Oven,
A Coffee Stall,
A Coster's Barrow,
A supply of Flowers,
" Fruit,
" Vegetables,
" Fish, &c., &c.

These loans are secured against fraud and loss by security, and are repaid by weekly instalments. When the last is paid the article or the goods, as the case may be, become the property of the borrower.

Blanket Lending.—The plan is to lend a pair of blankets late in the autumn for winter use, to be returned clean in the early spring. The blankets are generally provided by friends or bought by gift-money and lent free of charge.

Soup Kitchen, from which is supplied good nourishing soup to the very poor at a price that scarcely pays for the materials for making it. All other expenses paid out of a fund raised for the purpose.

Family Doctors' Club, to provide medical attendance and medicine, the members paying one penny weekly for an adult, and one half-penny for a child.

The Shoeblacks.

During the year 1877-8, the number of boys employed by nine societies was 373, and their joint earnings were £12,393 1*s.* 0*d.*, which, on an average, was about £33 earned by each boy during the year. The deposits in the bank belonging to the boys at the close of the year amounted to £529 5*s.* 8*d.*

The total earnings of these boys for the twenty-seven years they have been at work has amounted to the grand sum of £182,737, which was earned by a continuous succession of boys in the whole numbering 7,777.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION.

Held at Exeter Hall on Monday, May 6*th*, 1878.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., presided.

The Thirty-fourth Anniversary and Distribution of Scholars' Prizes took place on Monday evening, May 6th, at Exeter Hall, which was densely crowded. The chair was taken at six o'clock by the President, the Earl of Shaftesbury, who was accompanied by Lady Edith Ashley and the Hon. Lionel Ashley; and on the platform were Alderman Sir R. W. Carden, John MacGregor, Esq., H. R. Williams, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Paterson, the Rev. John Richardson, the Rev Archibald Brown, the Rev. De Kewer Williams, &c.

On the platform were about 600 children, boys and girls, taking prizes, and under the practised leadership of Mr. Proudman they sang a selection of hymns and suitable songs, the latter executed with a force and vivacity, or a plantiveness, according to the subject or tenor of the words, equal to what had been displayed on former occasions of the same kind. The banners of the schools represented, which were ranged round the orchestral part of the hall, glittered with devices and inscriptions in gilt characters.

The schools and the number of prizes obtained were respectively as follows:—Amicable Row, 11; Brewer's Court, 19; Britannia Row, 37; Broad Street, 6; Brunswick Street, 2; Butler's Place, 3; Chequer Alley, 12; Collingwood Street, 15; Cottage Place, 4; Croydon, 3; Dartford, 17; Deptford, 4; Devonshire Street, 4; Dove Row, 7; East Greenwich, 4; Ernest Street, 7; Exeter Buildings, 8; Field Lane, 8; Fox Court, 15; George Yard, 10; Golden Lane, 20; Gray's Yard, 15; Grotto Passage, 3; Hatfield Street, 2; Hope Street, 9; Horseferry Road, 9; John Street, 3; Johnson's Court, 2; Jurston Street, 16; King Edward Street, 33; Kingsland, 7; Lamb and Flag, 37; Lansdowne Place, 14; Little Coram Street, 7; Little Saffron Hill, 3; Marigold Place, 20; Morton Road, 8; New Tothill Street, 2; Newport Street, 32; Ogle Mews, 34; Perkins' Rents, 11; Queen Square, 6; Richmond Street, 5; Ratcliff, 4; Robert Street, 3; Rufford's buildings, 20; Somers Town, 11; St. James's Place, 7; Spicer Street, 1; Victory Place, 3; Vincent Street, 3; Wentworth Street, 9; West Greenwich, 10; Wilkes Street, 4; Windsor, 2. The proceedings were opened with the singing, by the juvenile choir and the assembly, of "All hail the power of Jesu's name," and the two verses of the hymn commencing "Let every kindred, every tribe," &c., and "O that with yonder sacred throng," &c., and with the offering of prayer by the Rev. W. Tyler.

The children afterwards sang, "O worship the King," "O let me live," and "I will guide thee."

The SECRETARY (Mr. Gent) then read a brief abstract of the Report (see page 92).

After the reading of the Report, the choir, after singing "O praise the Lord, exalt His name," sang the song entitled "Spreading a Rumour," beginning "Says Gossip One to Gossip Two," in a manner that led to a loud call for an *encore*, which was responded to, the children telling the story of the proverbially-rapid growth of oral scandal almost by the musical cadences alone.

The distribution of prizes followed, one of the managers, the superintendent, or one of the teachers of the respective schools passing to the chair, and receiving them from the hands of Lord Shaftesbury, and the name of the school being displayed to the company as the prizes were presented. Alderman Sir R. W. Carden received the prizes for his school, and was loudly cheered as he bore them away.

JOHN MACGREGOR, Esq., then delivered an address to the children. He said: My dear young friends, you have had "gossips" Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and I now beg to introduce myself to you as "Gossip No. 6." I have a secret about "Brown" (alluding to a character in the song referred to). I have got a rumour —I don't want you to say it is true if it is not so—I have heard a rumour that all the boys and girls on this platform have got as much tea and cake in them as they can carry inside (laughter)—I suspect that it is a true rumour; but I have found out from experience with regard to cake that when you have eaten as much as you can there is always room enough in the pocket for you to take a little bit home (laughter). Now, I want to give you something that will

be a great deal better than cake and tea; and perhaps some of you will tell me whether the rumour is true that in the pocket of your heads and the pocket of your hearts you have got room for a little bit of good advice. Long before you were born many children took good advice in Ragged Schools, and thousands of them are living to thank God that they did take it. I suppose every one of you has at some time or other gone over London Bridge. You there see a moving crowd, everybody having something on his head—that is, some kind of purpose. Some are poor and some rich, some are old and some young. It is a very interesting sight, and everybody who is there has got some kind of business. Now, if you had looked over London Bridge a few years ago, when the tide was down, you would have seen some very curious-looking creatures. They can't be boys—what, then, are they? No other creatures on earth ever looked like these. They are mudlarks groping about the mud at the river-side. Some people used to throw pence and halfpence from the bridge in order that they might enjoy the fun of seeing these mudlarks scrambling for them. That was not very generous conduct, was it? Now, my dear boys and girls, you have been saved from that kind of thing by Christian kindness, and people who go over the bridge now do not see anything like what I have told you of. You are now raised above all that. I do not mean by dress or by education, still less by ornaments; but by something far better. I mean that God has put you in a better position. The Gospel has done this for you, and nothing short of the Gospel could have done it. Nothing but the Gospel can do anything of this kind for any one. And now I will tell you a story. It is a perfectly true story, and it is quite new, for I only heard it this morning. A brother-in-law of mine has for the last two years been commanding a man-of-war, which has cruised among the savage islands of the South Pacific Ocean. Some of those islands are inhabited by cannibals, and it is not safe even for British sailors to go ashore, as they might be gobbled up. My relative visited one of those islands, which not very long ago was the most terrible of all. I mean Eromanga. That is the island where three missionaries were killed one after another, the first that was killed being that noble man John Williams. In that island my relative found a little boy, the son of a former cannibal chief, and his father allowed him to go on board the man-of-war and to be brought to England. That little fellow is very dark, in fact, almost black; but he is very clean, and behaves very nicely. A few days ago, while he was walking through Spitalfields with a gentleman, some people stared at him very much. He said to the gentleman, "Do you know what we do in our country if a man stare?" "No," said the gentleman; "what do you do?" "We eat man," was the reply. God has changed the natives of the island from which that boy has come into good Christian people; and that boy is going to an excellent school in London, and I hope he will by-and-by be sent out as a missionary to those distant islands. Now I want you all to remember how it was that you were brought into your present state, and I want you all to be good Christian children. It will be of no use for you to have got other things if you have not that blessedness

which comes from receiving the Gospel of Christ. I am now going to tell you a story. There were once two boys, brothers, who expected a present from their father. When the eldest became twelve years of age his father said to him, "Now, my boy, I have hitherto given you a shilling as a present; but I am now going to give your brother a shilling and you a £5 note. Take care of this note (giving it to him), for it is worth as much as 100 shillings." In the afternoon, this having happened in the morning, the father, on returning home after being away for some hours, found that the boy had torn up the £5 note. It turned out that he did not believe in its value, because he saw the word "promise" upon it, whereas a shilling being silver, he knew that he could easily spend it. Now, dear children, I don't suppose that many of you have got a £5 note, but you have got some paper on which you can read a wonderful promise of God, the "promise for the life that now is and for that which is to come." And now let me show you what kind of promise that is. About six months ago I saw a most curious-looking maggot. I kept it in a box, and the day before yesterday that maggot turned into a beautiful butterfly, with blue wings and very fine spots. The same God who caused that butterfly to come out of the little maggot has promised you and me that if we accept the salvation provided for us in His Son, we shall rise again to life everlasting and live with Him in heaven. We may suffer a great deal in this world —we may suffer poverty, and injustice, and sickness, and have many other trials; but still there is that promise, and I wish to impress this upon all your memories and hearts. If the good seed of the Gospel has taken root in your hearts, there will be for all of you the promise of everlasting life, and you will be able to realise the words of the hymn "We shall meet by-and-by," which you are going to sing at the close of this meeting.

The children then sang "The Fast Traveller."

The Rev. J. RICHARDSON said: My Lord and Christian Friends,—I have to move "That the Report submitted to this meeting, with the balance-sheet, be adopted and published, and that the gentlemen named in the printed list be the Committee for the year 1878-9" (names read). Of all the meetings in May in this wonderful London I think the most interesting is that which is being held within these walls this evening. To a speaker on the platform it is especially interesting, for behind him is a constituency such as a man has seldom to plead for, and before him is a body of teachers who well know the value of the work which they have in hand. As I was sitting here and wondering how all this was brought about, there came back to my mind something which I met with the other day in a newspaper. It was headed, "A Fortunate Contractor," and it stated how a man entered into a contract some years ago to take all the gas tar of, I think, all the metropolitan gas-works in the town, and to pay £8,000 a year for it; how, when the period of the contract had run out, he offered to pay £8,000 a year if it were renewed, and how he was outbid by another man who got the contract for £10,000 a year. Now, I remember a time when the refuse of the gas manufactories was considered a most uncomfortable thing, and, in fact, a

perfect nuisance; when it was regarded as an offensive thing, and when no one appeared to think it possible to turn it to good account or apply it to any of the purposes of civilised life. That is an illustration of the state of things which formerly existed as regards large masses of the population of London. There were certain classes of people who were called "the dangerous classes;" but as modern science has discovered processes by which the most beautiful dyes and colours may be obtained from the refuse of the kind of places to which I have alluded, so it has been found with regard to the "dangerous classes," that through the wonderful chemistry of God's grace operating in the human soul, even the lowest specimens of humanity in this great metropolis may be transformed into some of the highest and noblest specimens of brotherhood and sisterhood in Christ. This Ragged School Union has been beautifying, as it were, the rags of London. I remember that, about five-and-twenty years ago, Mr. John MacGregor being on a visit to Manchester, where I then lived, and where I originated a little Ragged School movement, I took him to see some of the slums of that town. We visited together what, I must say, I thought a very degraded neighbourhood, and one where there were plenty of rags. Mr. MacGregor said to me on that occasion, "Rags! why you have no rags, you don't know what they are; come with me to London and you shall see some real rags." Now, such are the materials upon which our Christian efforts have been engaged for so many years. It had been thought by nearly every one that London rags, like those of which I am speaking, had no real value; but benevolent Christians who directed special attention to the matter found that in the midst of rags there are human thoughts, human consciences, human hearts, human feelings, which by God's grace could be ennobled and beautified and sanctified through the instrumentality of His Word. So from these strange materials worked up, as it were, in this way, we may have what I may call the pure paper on which epistles of Christ are written for the glory of our common Master, and the encouragement of all who are engaged in this most difficult work. I appear before you to move a resolution to-night, because I believe that even in the case of the lowest and most degraded parts of the population you will find that there is something in the material before you, and that by God's grace there is something to be got out of it. Let me here tell you a little story which was told to me some years ago by the gentleman to whom the event happened. A poor lad in one of our large manufacturing towns was one day sent by his master with what is called in the north of England a "shandry cart" to take some goods to a customer. He had to pass over a bridge with a toll-gate at each end, and after he had paid the first toll he discovered that he had no money to pay the other. He drove up to the gate, however, and said to the keeper, "I have no money, and I can't pay the toll." The man looked at him, said, "Thou'st got an honest face, and I think I can trust thee," and lent him half-a-crown. The loan was soon repaid. In the course of Providence he who borrowed the money became a very successful Manchester merchant, and at his death he left property worth something like £500,000.

One day, as he was sitting in his counting-house, a man introduced himself to him, and said, "Mr. ——, do you remember me?" The merchant replied, "Yes, I do; you are the man who kept the toll-gate and lent me half-a-crown." "Well," said the man, "I have come to ask you to lend me £100." The old merchant pulled aside a little door opening to an inner office, and asked a clerk to give him a Bank of England note for £100. The note was passed through the opening, and given by the merchant to his visitor. "Do you think," said the man, "you will ever get this back again?" Remembering what the man had said to him on the bridge, the merchant replied, "Well, thou'st got an honest face, and I think I can trust thee." He did trust him, and out of that half-crown lent in a spirit of Christian kindness came £100. Now that is an illustration of the work of the Ragged School Union. Many hundreds of men and women have lent, as it were, some great effort on behalf of poor neglected children, and the Lord has repaid them with human souls. We have cause to thank God to-night that the work has been so abundantly prospered. This Union has been an educational union; but the foundation of the education which it has given has been the inspired Word of the ever-living God, bringing God's thoughts in contact with human wants, and applying them through the teaching of the Spirit to the conversion and edification of the soul.

The Rev. Dr. Paterson, in seconding the resolution, said: On the 6th of May, 1792, exactly ninety-six years ago, a Fellow of the Royal Society collected together a number of learned men for the purpose of exhibiting to them a process whereby, he said, he could change the baser metals into gold. The issue of his experiments was not fortunate, but I think we may safely affirm that we have discovered a method whereby, with the aid of God's grace and power, the baser metals of society may be transmuted into heirs of divine glory, brethren of the Lord Jesus Christ, sons and daughters of the eternal Father. There is no difference in this respect, for "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Men talk a great deal about education. Well, education in the ordinary sense does just what it is fitted to do, whether it be moral, mental, or physical education; but what we mean by education in connection with the wish of this Union is that divine education which begins in regeneration, when people are created anew in Christ Jesus unto good works, God having before ordained that they should walk in His footsteps. My lord, the work of Ragged Schools is no new work to me. Thirty years ago, when I was living in a town in the north of Scotland, a Christian merchant there took up this work with great earnestness, teaching, clothing, and feeding a number of children of the class which has been described this evening. I myself became a Ragged School teacher at that period, and I look back with great pleasure to that part of my life. I am thankful to say that I was engaged in the work; I entered into it most heartily, and have no doubt that through God's blessing excellent results followed from the efforts which were made in that case. . . I do not know that any better advice can be given to those who complain of feebleness and a want of zeal in

their Christian life than that they should enter upon such a work as this and prosecute it heartily. Such persons may depend upon it that they would be stronger as well as wiser for engaging in Ragged School work. Abernethy was in the habit of telling some of his patients that they should live on sixpence a day and earn it. I would say to many a Christian man, "Give yourself heartily to work in a Ragged School, and you will find your homes brighter and your hearts more cheerful in consequence of your being employed in carrying on such work for the Lord.

The resolution was then put and carried, its adoption being followed by the singing by the children of "Sound the Loud Timbrel."

H. R. WILLIAMS, Esq., then rose to present to Lady Edith Ashley, who was seated on the left of her father, a lithograph portrait of the noble earl, which had been placed in front of the platform. He said: I rise, my friends, not for the purpose of making a speech, even supposing I were able to do so, but simply to make a very short statement. Before doing that, however, I must, with your permission, allude to two events which have taken place since we last met in this Hall. One of these is connected with the freedom of the city of Edinburgh. This was conferred upon our noble Chairman a few weeks ago, and according to the Lord Provost's statement on the occasion—a statement which is recorded in the annals of the capital of Scotland—that distinguished honour was given on account of his lordship's long and successful efforts in the cause of social and sanitary reform, and of his philanthropic devotion to the promotion of every movement having for its object the advancement of the moral and material interests of the masses of the people. I know of no more honourable record than that, and I can assure you it afforded me very great pleasure to witness the ceremony of conferring that distinction. I have had the pleasure of knowing Lord Shaftesbury personally for the last thirty-two years in connection with the work of Ragged Schools, and that naturally increased my interest in the event to which I have alluded. When I have been asked—as I sometimes have been—what Ragged Schools have done, I have been in the habit of answering that question by asking another, namely, What have they not done? I will now proceed to tell the meeting the simple story of what they have done in the case of a lad who was brought to a school in the East of London twenty-eight or thirty years ago. He came to that school as a poor boy. Poverty is often very inconvenient, and no doubt Charles Montague often found it so, but it is not a crime. In 1854, on the platform of Exeter Hall, he received from Lord Shaftesbury his first prize, which was not like the portrait about to be presented. (Here the speaker alluded to a large lithograph portrait of the chairman which was on the platform.) At that time Charles Montague was not a lithographer. Although he has now been lithographer-in-chief to the Ragged School Union for some time, poverty, for a while, prevented him from acquiring that useful art; and the boys and girls who receive prizes this evening would do well to imitate the industry and perseverance which have enabled him to attain his present position. Some months after receiving the

prize in Exeter Hall, he was presented by Lord Robert Grosvenor (Lord Ebury) at the annual meeting of his school with the sum of ten shillings, and he did not waste the money, but invested eight shillings and sixpence of it in a pair of new boots. Having been well shod, he tried to improve his circumstances. At the age of eight he had to gain his own livelihood. He had to work from six in the morning till seven or half-past seven at night. Lord Shaftesbury has prevented that kind of torture for the future. (Loud cheers.) Children in workshops, and factories, and mines cannot now be treated in that way, thanks to his lordship's generous and persevering conduct in the Legislature. Finding that he was backward in education, this lad tried to make a bargain with his master, telling him that he would only take thirty minutes for his dinner instead of an hour if his master would let him go away half an hour earlier in the evening to attend an evening school. The master consented, and through attending school night after night the boy gained the education which fitted him for the work in which he is now engaged. That is a long period for any one to have been connected with one school. Charles Montagu came there as a scholar, he was made a teacher, he afterwards became superintendent, and he is now, perhaps, the most active man connected with that School (King Edward Ragged School, Spitalfields). Compared with the noble buildings erected by the London School Board there was very little in this particular school that was inviting, but in it good service has been done, and is doing, I am thankful to say. It has done a good work, and is doing one still. I well remember that on a cold, wet night in November, 1846, Lord Shaftesbury found his way to the slums of Spitalfields to open what was called a school. It was, in fact, a stable; but it had been transformed for the purpose of being used as a school, the only bit of brightness connected with it being some white pantiles, and even they were not very white, having already done duty in the neighbourhood for some years. The place had been whitewashed and made wholesome, and the necessary alterations and improvements having been made, the noble lord opened it as a school—a character which it has preserved, I am happy to say, from that time up to this day. Thank God there are many such schools, and many scholars in them, and thank God they have done, and are doing, a vast amount of good! There is one thing which, I am sure, all in this meeting will be glad to hear, if they have not heard it already. The School Board for London have lately established an industrial ship in the Thames, having bought for that purpose one of the finest vessels that ever floated, and I have the great satisfaction of stating that they have named that ship the "Shaftesbury." No better name could be given to such a vessel. Lord Shaftesbury has been the friend of poor boys for many, many years—ay, and of poor girls too—and it is a very fitting thing that a large industrial and educational establishment like that should take the name of his lordship after his thirty-four years' active service in the cause of Ragged Schools. I have now, my lord, to ask your daughter, Lady Edith Ashley, to be kind enough to accept a portrait of yourself which Mr. Montague has prepared for Ragged School teachers.

Some months ago it occurred to Mr. Montague that there was no good lithograph portrait of your lordship which these teachers could obtain, and he determined to do his best to provide one. He resolved to produce the best portrait that he possibly could, and he has done so. I do not suppose that, as a work of art, it will vie with the portrait of your lordship recently painted by Mr. Millais, which is now hanging in the Royal Academy; but whatever may be its merits or its demerits, you have it now before you, and I venture to say that it is a creditable production. In asking Lady Edith Ashley to accept this portrait of her father, I would mention a little fact which may perhaps interest her. I once saw a little shoeblack looking up at the window of a well-known print-shop, and as he pointed to a portrait of the President of the Ragged School Union, I heard him say to two little companions, "That is our Lord Shaftesbury." So in the name of this meeting I would say, with all sincerity, "That" (pointing to the lithograph portrait which was being presented) "is our Lord Shaftesbury." (Great cheering from all parts of the hall.) We all honour his lordship as the leader and friend of Ragged School teachers, and I am sure Mr. Montague has done good service to the cause of Ragged Schools by enabling us to possess ourselves of such an excellent likeness. Mr. Montague then presented to Lady Edith Ashley the portrait, bearing the following inscription:—

THIS PORTRAIT
OF THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE EARL OF SHAFTESBURY, K.G.,
IS THE HUMBLE OFFERING
Of one who owes all his success in life to the kind instruction and encouragement received at the KING EDWARD RAGGED SCHOOL, SPITALFIELDS, of which his Lordship has been President since its opening in November, 1846.

IT IS PRESENTED TO
LADY EDITH ASHLEY,
ON THE
THIRTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION,
BY
CHARLES MONTAGUE,
As a small token of his thankful acknowledgments, and of his high esteem for her Ladyship's Father, whose efforts in the cause of Ragged Schools generally will never be forgotten.

May 6th, 1878.

Lady EDITH ASHLEY stood up to receive the portrait, and the ceremony was marked by several rounds of cheers from all parts of the hall.

The Earl of SHAFTESBURY, after expressing his regret that his voice was very weak, said: I have risen, my friends, for the purpose of thanking Mr. Montague and the meeting for the portrait which has just been presented, and of expressing on behalf of my daughter her deep sense of the kindness shown her. I may say, in her name, that she would far rather receive this portrait at the hands of a Ragged School teacher—one who, by his own exertions and by his own virtues, under God's blessing, has risen to competence and even honour—than she would receive the most noble painting from a member of the Royal Academy. (Cheers.) My voice is in such a state that what I say to you this evening will be said with considerable difficulty; but it has often happened that good has come out of evil, and so in the present case one result of what I have mentioned will be that I shall speak very briefly. Now, my

friends, this is a very great celebration. For thirty-four years it has given me unmingled satisfaction to preside on occasions like the present, and I could wish that some of the grandees of society came more frequently to anniversaries of this kind, to see with their own eyes, and hear with their own ears, some of the fruits of our labours presenting such an agreeable picture on the platform. We know that thousands and thousands of persons are going from different parts of the earth, numbers of them crossing the ocean to visit the Paris Exhibition. If they had come here this evening they would have seen an exhibition less splendid, indeed, in appearance, less striking to the senses, appealing less to the imagination, but still on the whole far more interesting and important: they would have seen a great lesson as to how nations are to be governed, how peace is to be maintained, how the masses of the people are to be imbued with religious sentiment, and how the internal strength of a nation may be based on foundations which can never be shaken. It would be a good thing for continental nations—it would especially be a good thing for the keen-witted and intelligent inhabitants of Paris—if they were to imitate what has been done here, and apply the lessons which we can teach them to the case of the seething masses of their respective communities. If any man were to ask me what good Ragged Schools had done, I would say to such an ignorant fellow (laughter)—I would point him if he were here, to the spectacle behind me, and I would say, "You see in these children what Ragged Schools have made out of the raw material with which they had to deal: you have there the finished article which has been produced by us." (Loud cheers.) This is a specimen of what we have been doing for years. I have often said, and have defied any one to contradict the assertion, that we have taken off the streets of London an immense proportion of what have been called the dangerous classes—seed-plots of vice, crime, and peril, which but for us would have been an overpowering source of mischief and terror to the whole community. Ragged Schools have, I say, taken a vast number of poor children belonging to the dangerous classes off the streets and alleys of the metropolis, and they have placed them in positions in which they have obtained a decent livelihood; close upon 300,000 children having been thus dealt with since the Ragged School Union first commenced its operations. What would have been the condition of London if the efforts which were begun more than than thirty years ago had not been carried on and been crowned with God's blessing? Why, that good friend of mine and of yours, Sir Robert Carden (cheers), will tell you what must have been the state of things if this work had not been set on foot and continued. Do people ask what Ragged Schools have done? Why, they have done a great deal more good than the police have done; they have done a great deal more good than the army has done. Ragged School teachers have gone among the lowest classes of the people and softened asperities which might otherwise have proved most mischievous to society; they have brought teachers in close contact with children and their parents—mind to mind, heart to heart, and I may say soul to soul (cheers); and I will add that the police, if not the

army, must have been multiplied very greatly but for the influence of Ragged Schools. It appears that there is now a great scarcity of good domestic servants. Well, what do we do in relation to that matter? We take the rawest kind of material that can be found in the shape of girls, and we turn that material into good domestic servants, and I believe there has hardly ever been an instance in which we have introduced a girl into a family as a domestic servant in which she has not proved honest, willing, and obedient. My friend Mr. Williams gave me more credit in reference to the King Edward Street School than I deserve. He very modestly dropped his own name, but I must not omit to mention it, and to state that that school is mainly indebted to him for its usefulness and prosperity. He also spoke of my connection with the shoeblacks. The Shoeblack Associations originated with other heads than mine; they were founded by Mr. Snape, Mr. Fowler, and my excellent friend, Mr. John MacGregor. (Cheers.) You must, my friends, excuse my not saying any more on this occasion, as I am going to start for Paris immediately for the purpose of opening a new hall there—the Salle Evangélique—which is to be used for religious purposes and the work of evangelisation. (Cheers.) I feel deeply grateful to you all, and I earnestly pray that God will enable you to continue your exertions. It was at one time thought by many that Ragged Schools had done their work and were, in fact, crushed, but now they have begun to rally and to recover their influence. The number of voluntary teachers has increased, and so also has the number of Sunday schools, and I am happy to be able to say that the London School Board, instead of being hostile towards us, is now acting in a friendly spirit, having at length made the discovery which we made long ago, that they cannot dispense with our operations—(cheers)—that they cannot, like ourselves, dive down into the depth and recesses of human misery and degradation and drag up those who are lying there to a position in which they can bask in the light and liberty of the blessed Gospel. (Cheers.) Do not suppose, then, my friends, that your work is anything like ended. At this very moment there are numbers of children who are wandering about without having any relatives to care for them. Therefore do not desist from your work; persevere in your efforts, and rely upon it that the more you do in obedience to God's command to benefit ignorant and suffering children, the greater blessing will you receive on your labours and on your own souls. Go on with your useful work, and I heartily wish you continued success. (Great cheering.)

His Lordship and Lady Edith Ashley then retired from the hall amid loud cheers from all parts of the hall.

Alderman Sir R. W. Carden succeeded to the chair.

The children then sang "Let's dare and do," and "The Snail."

The Rev. ARCHIBALD BROWN moved the following: "That the hearty thanks of this meeting be presented to the Noble Chairman for presiding on this occasion, and especially for the great work of his life in connection with Ragged Schools." He said it gave him unfeigned delight to stand on the platform that evening to plead the cause of the Ragged

School Union, and he was glad to find that that Union was continuing and extending its influence, and raising up a succession of benevolent and pious persons who devoted themselves to the promotion of the moral and spiritual welfare of neglected and destitute children. The only workers who could be of any service in such a work as that, were those whom God raised up for Himself. In Ragged School work they wanted men who had a direct call from God. It was possible to prosecute even Christian work, for a time, as a sort of profession, but where the right motive was wanting, zeal would soon flag, and what was done would be of little value. If God raised up a man to work for Himself, He equipped him for the work, and there would be a deep-rooted solicitude in him for souls, and an earnest desire to see them gathered in for Christ. Again, if God raised a man up for work, He would adapt him for it. That was the case with regard to teaching as well as preaching. God always raised up the best kind of men for any great work. In the sixteenth century, when all Europe was crushed by popery, God raised up Martin Luther to demolish it, and after sending one to demolish, he sent another to build, who was named John Calvin, each being exactly adapted for the particular work which God wished him to do. The Report expressed the gratitude of the Committee for a succession of such workers. Not a few had been removed by death, but others had been raised up to take their place. He did not believe in apostolic succession, but he did believe in a succession of true evangelists. There were grand workers always hidden from the knowledge of men, whom God would bring forward when He required their services. The Committee also expressed a hope that the Ragged School workers would be well qualified for their work, and he had no doubt that that hope would be realised. As was pointed out in the Report, it was not logic, it was not oratory, it was not illustration, or anything of that kind, which converted a soul, but God's truth. Neither was it the vagaries of modern thought which converted souls. These might do for some fashionable suburban churches in which the text was held up as a connoisseur in wine held up that. The meaning, said the preacher, might be this, or it might be that, and the result was that according to him it was nothing. The truth was often spoken in the simplest way by the simplest people, and ecclesiastical caste frequently served to obscure it. *He saw before him representatives of a noble band of* 2,600 *teachers* (see page 109). More were needed. Let them cry to the Majesty of Heaven that He would call out the reserves for permanent service. He felt persuaded that the Prince of Darkness was now reviewing all his reserves. Satan's followers spared nothing that was sacred; they did not hesitate to assail the very theism and deity of the Lord; they would if possible get rid of His atoning sacrifice; they would mutilate the Scriptures and tone down the Gospel till it came to mean nothing. Oh, let all the servants of the Master, who were then assembled, gird up their loins afresh, set their face as a flint against the foe, cast scabbard away, and, shouting "The sword of the Lord and of the Ragged School Union," dash into the fray.

"Soldier, be the conquest pressing,
'Onward' let thy watchword be;
God upon thee pours His blessing,
What though man derideth thee?

"Onward, though the faggots burning
Be thy pathway's only light;
Onward, death and danger spurning,
Onward in the path of right.

"Onward, then, with bold contending,
In the path the martyrs trod;
God to thee His strength is lending,
Onward in the name of God."

The Rev. DE KEWER WILLIAMS, in seconding the resolution, said he had been told officially that there must be included in it *a* noble Chairman as well as *the* noble Chairman—Sir Robert Carden as well as Lord Shaftesbury; and as the seconder, he had great pleasure in acceding to that suggestion. Long might it be before the life of Lord Shaftesbury would have to be written; but whenever it was written one of the most gratifying parts of it would be that in which was told the story of his long and earnest labours in the cause of Ragged Schools.

The resolution was then put by the mover and carried by acclamation.

The children afterwards sang the hymn, "We shall meet by-and-by," and the proceedings closed with the benediction.

THE TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED RAGGED SCHOOL TEACHERS.

CHILDREN to the right of them,
Children to the left of them,
From happiness sundered;
None seemed to heed their plight,
None moved to lead them right,
None save that army bright,
Two thousand six hundred.

These came with one accord,
Faithful servants of their Lord,
While others wondered;
These to the rescue came,
Seeking no earthly fame,
Heedless of rank or name,
Two thousand six hundred.

Headed by their Leader true,
Known and loved by not a few,
Shaftesbury's Earl—
He encouraged them to go
Down amongst the scenes of woe,
There, amongst the Gospel's foe,
Their banners unfurl.

Nor did they go in vain;
Here they return again,
Rewarded with victory.
Here see the trophies won,
Here see the work they've done:
Here in our midst is shown
Five hundred and seventy.

All from the Ragged Schools,
All taught by Bible rules,
Have made a start,
Earning a living here,
Serving in faith and fear,
Till in another sphere
They take their part.

All honour to the faithful few,
Men of God, and women too,
Daring to go.
Honour the cause they have,
All praise to Him who gave
His Son to seek and save
Souls from woe.

Children to the right of them,
Children to the left of them,
From misery sundered,
Now with the Christian throng,
Raising the grateful song,
Giving praise for one among
Two thousand six hundred.

J. E.

"THE YOUNGEST BURGESS OF EDINBURGH."

Soon after the publication of our last number, on Saturday, April 13th, an interesting ceremony took place in the Free Church Assembly Hall, Edinburgh. The occasion was to do honour to Lord Shaftesbury, by presenting him with the freedom of that ancient city, in recognition of his public services as a social and sanitary reformer. The large hall was densely packed, every seat occupied, and all standing-spaces filled by the citizens eager to see and hear the Earl of Shaftesbury. On the platform was a deputation from the Ragged School Union of London, the members of which were H. R. Williams, J. E. Gordon, Esq., and Mr. J. G. Gent.

The Lord Provost, addressing Lord Shaftesbury, said: "My Lord, I have now the honour of placing in your hands the document which confers upon you the freedom of this ancient city, to mark our high appreciation of those successful efforts which, with untiring devotion, during a long life, you have made to ameliorate the moral and physical condition of the labouring classes, and in recognition generally of the work you have performed as a Christian philanthropist."

The Lord Provost then gave a summary of the great and successful efforts that Lord Shaftesbury had made in his long and useful career for bettering the condition of the poor and working classes. He recapitulated the history and successful issue of the factory struggle, then of the agricultural labourers and the mining population, and proceeded to say:—

Your labours also in the cause of education, and as chairman of the Ragged School Union—(applause)—over which you have presided since its formation, four and thirty years ago, have left a great mark upon the country. Before that time, the appalling fact had been ascertained that there were upwards of one million of children in the country wholly destitute of the means of education, of whom upwards of one hundred thousand were in London. You brought the subject before the House of Commons, and showed, from the state of vice and ignorance in almost every large town, the great need which existed for diffusing the benefits and blessings of a moral and religious education among the labouring classes. The result was that great efforts were at once made by educational and missionary societies to remedy that state of matters. It was, however, seen that large numbers of children were excluded from the ordinary day and Sunday schools in consequence of their ragged and neglected condition, many of whom were almost never off the streets, and it was therefore resolved to establish special schools for these destitute children. The Ragged School Union was formed. Your lordship took the movement under your fostering care, and the beneficial results have been truly wonderful. In 1870, when the Educational Bill was passed, the Union had been in active operation for twenty-six years, and was carrying on work in about two hundred separate buildings. That work consisted of Day Schools, Night Schools, and Sunday Schools; Classes for Industry,

Ragged Churches, and Parents' Meetings, &c., &c., the whole being conducted at an annual cost of £45,000. Concurrently with all this, successful efforts were made to meet the necessities of those children who passed through the schools, such as enabling many of them to emigrate to the colonies, and others to support themselves at home. Altogether, I do not overestimate the fact when I say that the Ragged Schools of London, since their establishment, have rescued from neglect and vicious courses at least 200,000 children and placed them in the way of gaining an honest livelihood. Your lordship has presided at every one of the anniversary meetings of the Union without a single exception, and during its whole existence you have laboured in its interests with unflagging perseverance. And while, in conducting this great movement, there have been associated with you a large number of earnest and God-fearing men and women, to your lordship's influence and zeal are mainly due its extension and success. But further let me say, that among the many benevolent institutions which your lordship has originated, the National Rufuges for Homeless and Destitute Children, and the training ships Chichester and Arethusa, take a prominent place. Upwards of a quarter of a century ago you presided at a meeting for the inauguration of the first of these Refuges. From want of funds the Committee were only able to receive nine children: but the necessity for such an institution became at once apparent, and in six months that number was increased to about a hundred. The applications for admission became numerous; the public gave additional support; and now there are five Homes. Twelve years ago the training ship Chichester was established in the Thames; afterwards, a farm school in Surrey; and subsequently the Arethusa was also fitted up as a training ship. It is interesting to know the origin of the first training ship. Your lordship became aware that a large number of destitute boys were nightly compelled to fly for shelter to the casual wards of workhouses, and you resolved to do something for them if they could only be laid hold of. One night they were invited to one of the Refuges to a supper—a grand supper for them. Nearly 300 accepted the invitation; but such a scene of rags and human misery had probably never before been congregated in one spot, and many friends who had been invited to help in serving out the supper were moved to tears at what they witnessed. The feast being over, the boys and company adjourned to an upper room, where your lordship addressed the lads in a feeling, fatherly, and sympathising spirit, and when you had finished you asked who would be willing to go on board a training ship, supposing one could be obtained. Every hand in the room went up, and then you saw the way was clear for rescuing this mass of human waste. The boys were dismissed for the night, money having been given them to pay for their lodging. Next day forty were received into the Refuge, and efforts were at once made for obtaining the loan of an old man-of-war to fit up as a training ship. And so this supper was the beginning of the Chichester's organisation; and such has been the success of the effort, that now there are no less than twelve other training ships—two for Scotland, two for Ireland, and the rest for the coast of England.

The Lord Provost went on to speak of what had been done to improve the condition of the insane, calling special attention to the remarkable evidence given by Lord Shaftesbury before a Committee of the House of Commons last year, and respecting which the *Journal of Mental Science*, edited by Drs. Maudsley and Clouston, says:—

"The Earl of Shaftesbury was the last witness, and we must heartily congratulate his lordship on the way in which the Act of 1845, his own handiwork, has passed through this examination. His lordship spoke with such a thorough mastery of every lunacy question about which he was asked, that his replies are the admiration of all his younger fellow-countrymen who are in any way interested in the welfare of the insane."

Reference was made to Lord Shaftesbury as the President of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Lord Provost concluded by saying that—

"Before this, I should have mentioned that on your succession to the peerage, your increased influence was all used on behalf of the objects of philanthropy and religion which you had at heart. The course of your life all through has been the unselfish promotion of the well-being of others. Nor, as we have seen, have you confined yourself to your own country. Not only has your eye of pity fallen upon the ragged and deserted child of the street, but the enslaved son of Africa has also elicited your commiseration, and from them upwards through the social scale you have sought to do good to all. The records of those religious and benevolent societies to which I have referred show that your charity extended to all lands, and that the aspiration of your soul was that the time might speedily come when the grace of God would regenerate all men. Permit me to say that you have lived a noble life, have accomplished a noble work, and will leave behind you a noble example." (Applause.)

The Town Clerk here read the minute of Council conferring the freedom of the city on the noble earl, "in recognition of his life-long and successful efforts in the cause of sanitary and social reform, and of his philanthropic devotion to the promotion of every movement having for its object the advancement of the moral and material interests of the masses of the people."

This minute, handsomely engrossed on vellum, constituted the Burgess Ticket, which, enclosed in the silver casket, was handed to the Lord Provost for presentation.

The Lord Provost, again addressing Lord Shaftesbury, while the whole assemblage rose to their feet, said: "My Lord, in presenting you with this token of the estimation in which we hold you, I will only add that it is a proud act for the Corporation of this ancient

capital to enrol your name on its list of citizens, feeling that although that list shines with a brilliant lustre from the names already inscribed thereon, it will shine with a yet brighter radiance when there is added that of Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Earl of Shaftesbury."

The casket was handed to the noble earl amid loud and prolonged cheering.

Lord Shaftesbury graciously acknowledged the honour paid him by the presentation, in the presence of such a vast assembly, and thanked the Lord Provost for the many kind expressions of his admirable address, and concluded his remarks in the midst of cordial cheering by saying: "Now, my Lord Provost, my gratitude is so deep that I will not inflict upon you anything like a long speech. Once more I thank you in the most sincere and heartfelt manner for the honour that has been bestowed. I thank you, my Lord Provost; I thank the members of this honourable Council; I thank all the inhabitants of this great capital. A Queen of England, lying upon her deathbed, once said in agony of spirit, 'The loss of Calais will be found written on my heart.' Thank God I say the very reverse, and I affirm with the utmost joy that the acquisition of Edinburgh will be found engraven on mine."

The Lord Provost then, in accordance with time honoured custom, called for three cheers for *the youngest burgess*, which were given with right good will.

Lord Shaftesbury, in responding to this demonstration, said: "I did not expect to hear the term juvenile applied to me. Although I am the youngest of burgesses, I believe I am old enough to be the father of you all." (Laughter.)

Three cheers were then given for the Lord Provost, and the assemblage began to disperse.

LORD SHAFTESBURY IN BELLEVILLE.

In our last number we gave a detailed account of Miss de Broen's Christian efforts in poor quarters of Paris known as Belleville. Since then Lord Shaftesbury has visited the scene of her labours and mixed with the people of that despised locality.

The *Daily News* gave a brief report of the visit, which we transfer to our pages:—

"At nine on Thursday evening about 200 of the poorest people in Belleville assembled at the Iron Hall, 32, Rue Puebla, built by Miss de Broen, to hear an address from Lord Shaftesbury. The room was hung round with Protestant texts of Scripture in French, and a very fair reduced copy of Paul preaching at Athens. Among the audience,

the majority being women and children, was one private soldier wearing a medal. Hymns, given out verse by verse in English fashion by M. Vanderveck, an Evangelical co-operator of Miss de Broen, were sung. Then the Rev. William Arthur introduced Lord Shaftesbury as one of the greatest lords in England, but at the same time one of the most industrious workmen, his whole life having been devoted to the service of the working classes. Lord Shaftesbury was much pressed to speak in French, but declined, for fear of mistakes, and ultimately Miss de Broen undertook to translate his speech phrase by phrase. This difficult task she performed so admirably that scarcely any solution of continuity was perceptible.

Lord Shaftesbury said:—"My good friends of the city of Paris, I do not address you in your own language, because, although I know and love it, I do not speak it well enough. I wish to say we have come here from England to see you, and how much I desire your temporal and eternal happiness. If you read history you will find in former times frequent wars between our countries. I hope by God's blessing such things will never occur again. I want to tell you that we love the people of France, and to take back a message from you that you love the people of England, because you are all made by the same God, saved by the same Christ, and heirs to a common immortality. You here have chosen the only way after your long sufferings to turn your hearts to God. I am glad to see you and glad to see so many children. I sat just now by two of the nicest little things I ever saw in my life, and was delighted with the attention they paid to the hymn-book. Ah! you dear mothers, think of what I tell you and your great responsibilities. Up to five or so mothers are absolute, and they entirely form character. I scarcely know in history any pious man who could not trace his piety to his mother, or some woman acting as his mother. Now, then, give your hearts to the study of the Bible. When our Queen was crowned, the Archbishop of Canterbury gave her a Bible, saying, 'Madam, this, the best book in the whole world, will teach you to rule your subjects and yourself.' Now I think I have said enough. I can only add the interest which I and all Englishmen, especially those here present, take in France, and I hope henceforth there may be no more rivalry save as to who shall best serve Christ."

NIPPING CRIME IN THE BUD.

Money Spent but the Boy Saved.

The money spent upon the education of the country is not lost. In the Report of the Directors of Convict Prisons for 1876, after the statement that the number of convicts is decreasing, the directors

remark that "it is reasonable to urge from these figures that the means which have been adopted in recent times for preventing crime, by cutting it off at its source, have begun to take effect." This statement may be explained and supported by an extract from the report of Mr. Ricks, one of the School Board Inspectors, who says:

"It is encouraging to find that, in a very large number of cases, children of parents who have been compelled by the law to send their offspring to school do gradually acquire habits of order and regularity, and that 'truanting,' although still prevalent in many schools, has been almost, if not quite eradicated in others. In June last I heard incidentally that the only boy in the 5th Standard of a large permanent school who obtained a prize in the competitive examination in Bible knowledge was a little fellow—now a *shoe-black*—whose father, in the autumn of 1872, was called upon by the magistrate to pay two penalties for neglecting to send his children to school.

"This led me to inquire in the different schools whether there were many cases of this sort, and I have been both surprised and gratified at the evident pride with which the teachers have pointed to numbers of boys who once roamed the streets, hatless and shoeless, dirty and ragged, but who now are regular and punctual, clean and tidy, and among 'the best boys in the school.' Here is one example:—W. H., aged thirteen years, was admitted to school twelve months ago. He had previously been expelled from the neighbouring schools as incorrigible. He was brought to school every day for several weeks by his father, assisted by the caretaker of the school, and his screams set the whole neighbourhood in an uproar. Left to himself for a few minutes on one morning, he cut his trousers into ribands. Now this boy is one of the cleanest and most punctual boys in his class, one of the hardest workers and most promising pupils, 'and,' adds the master, 'one in whom I take great interest.' Another teacher gives me the following:—'Of all the boys forced into this school by the School Board visitors, three only have turned out to be incorrigible. About a dozen lads who were regular truants are now among the best boys in the school. One took a prize at the last Scripture examination, two gained certificates, and another has earned a prize for regular attendance.' A third tells me he has fourteen boys all brought in from the streets by the visitors—thorough street arabs, staying from their homes for days together. Now they are all attending school regularly, and making good progress. Three of them have received prizes, and two have obtained certificates for regular and punctual attendance, two received certificates for proficiency in religious knowledge, and one has passed in free-hand drawing."

PAGE FOR THE YOUNG.

WHITEFIELD, THE SHOEBLACK.

About a hundred years ago there lived in the city of Oxford, England, a boy whose name was George. He was very poor, so much so that he was compelled to clean the boots of the students at the University to obtain money with which to buy the necessaries of life. His countenance was of no ordinary appearance. His eye was keen and piercing; his forehead noble and lofty; and every feature of his face was perfectly developed. By his easy and polite manners, his obliging disposition, and his warm and generous nature, he soon won the confidence and esteem of many of those upon whom he waited. The poverty of clothing served better to show the richness of a mind which needed only cultivation to make it one of the brightest in the whole country. The students of the University seeing such noble qualities in the lowly and the humble bootblack, determined to educate him; and many of them devoted no little share of their time to that purpose. They found him ready, willing, and studious. He lost not a moment of his precious time; but applied himself diligently, perseveringly, to his studies, and soon became an equal, if not a superior, to some of his instructors.

His advance in merit was very rapid; so great was it, that numbers were unable to recognise in the gifted and talented young man the once poor and needy bootblack. About this time there was a great change in the religion of England. There arose a sect which, from the peculiar habits of its members, their strict observance of the Sabbath, their faithful reading of God's Word, their frequent and stated engagements in prayer, was called Methodist. With this party George immediately connected himself, and soon became one of the ablest and most consistent members. The youths who once sought his company, now treated him with sneering contempt.

Those who once considered him a young man of extraordinary abilities, then thought him a reckless fanatic, and avoided his society as they would that of a worthless drunkard. All this did not move him. He was as firm as a rock. Nothing could change him. Like Moses, he preferred a life of Christian consistency to the enjoyment of sin for a season. His unchanging conduct won for him many warm and ardent admirers, and numbers who formerly branded him as a fanatic, became his best friends. I have not time, children, to say more concerning the character of this interesting young man. It will be sufficient to add, that he soon became one of the most pious and

talented preachers in England, and such numbers flocked to hear him that the largest house in London could not contain them.

He preached in the open fields to thousands upon thousands; and the great amount of good which he did eternity shall tell. Dear boys, do not mind the sneers of your companions. Do your duty, let the consequences be what they may. Be industrious, energetic. Don't mind difficulties. They only make your arm stronger, your heart braver. If this poor boy could arise from the lowly position of a boot-black to that of one of the most pious and eloquent preachers England ever produced, cannot you go and "do likewise"? You have no idea what you can do till you try. Energy, combined with earnest prayer, will accomplish the most difficult task.

Boys, would you like to know the name of the boy who blacked the boots of the students at Oxford University? It is GEORGE WHITEFIELD.'" —*Christian Treasury.*

Notices of Meetings.

PRINCESS LOUISE HOME.

On May 15 Lord Shaftesbury presided at the 43rd annual meeting and distribution of prizes to the children of this charity, held at the Home, Woodhouse, Wanstead. The prizes, consisting of money presents, work-boxes, and articles of clothing, were presented by Mrs. Ingleby, of Ilford, an old friend of the institution. The report, which was taken as read, shows that there are now 66 children in the Home, of whom 10 leave this year for situations. Since the institution commenced operations in 1835, 1,237 girls have been admitted to its benefits. Of these, 956 have been placed in situations, 194 restored to their friends, 10 discharged, and 5 have died. The year's receipts, including £378 raised by the sale of £400 stock, amounted to £2,176, and the expenditure to £2,058, leaving a balance of £118. His lordship, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked that there was a growing need for institutions like this. The young and unprotected girls who were coming to London and other large towns were exposed to great dangers for want of proper homes and protection. The institution of the penny post and the railways had created in the minds of these people a state of excitement and unrest, and hence the continual changes from place to place among servants. In his own household he had a butler who was a very good servant and was treated well in every respect. In spite of this, however, he had given notice to leave his situation. His lordship, being somewhat puzzled at such a wish, and unable to find the reason for it, set a fellow-servant to work to find out the cause. The butler gave as his objection to the place, "I have not time enough to

go to my club." Formerly servants remained in the same family for many years. There had recently died a domestic who had been in his service over 54 years, and he had still in his house a nurse who had served him for 49 years. This person ruled almost supreme in the house, and any member of his family would as soon think of taking a leap into the Red Sea as of retiring to rest without bidding this old servant "good night." He was convinced that this system of servant training was the right thing. The report was adopted.

GEORGE YARD.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting of the above-named Ragged Schools, Church, Shelter for Outcast Boys, Infant Nursery, &c., was held in the large room, George Yard, Whitechapel, on May 30th, a large and most respectable audience being present. The Right Hon. the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., presided. The room was very prettily decorated with flowers and mottoes, which had a very pleasing effect. During the course of the evening the children sang a number of hymns, which were highly appreciated.

The proceedings having been opened with praise and prayer, the secretary (Mr. G. Holland) read the annual report.

The Rev. G. Curnock said he had much pleasure in moving the following resolution: "That the report read at this meeting, with the balance-sheet, be circulated. That this meeting desires reverently to acknowledge the goodness of God to this institution, in extending its usefulness and raising up a succession of benevolent and pious persons, who devote themselves to the promotion of the moral and spiritual welfare of children and adults."

The Rev. J. Cohen, in seconding the resolution moved by the Rev. Mr. Curnock, said he could not but be struck at the result of the work so ably begun and carried on by Dr. Allen up to the time of his leaving the parish. He was also glad to know that his work had borne much fruit. He hoped that if they appreciated the work of Mr. Holland they would show it by their deeds.

Sir R. W. Carden also spoke to the resolution, and said the report was one of the most comprehensive he had ever heard read. He was much struck by the proposal of the committee to raise the building a floor higher, which showed their wisdom.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman said he had much pleasure in stating that a testimonial, consisting of a framed and glazed illuminated address, had been placed in his hands for presentation to Mr. R. L. Lankester, their worthy treasurer.

The Secretary read the address as follows:—"Presented to R. L. Lankester, Esq., treasurer of the George Street Schools, High Street, Whitechapel, by the teachers:—Dear Sir,—We, the teachers of the above schools, beg your acceptance of this humble address, which we present to you in recognition of your many valuable services rendered to the cause of Christ in the above institution for the last twenty-two years. We are constrained by a sense of duty to tender you this expression of our appreciation of the many acts of kindness and sympathy shown to the humble workers in the George Yard Schools in bygone days, both

by yourself and your dear wife. We, and our devoted superintendent, who have together borne the heat and burden of the day, will ever cherish the most grateful remembrance of the great benefits conferred on us. We unitedly pray that your life, and that of your esteemed partner, may be spared many years to encourage and hold up the hands of those who are engaged in God's cause in this institution. On behalf of the teachers, George Holland, May 30, 1878."

The noble Chairman, in presenting the address, remarked that it seemed to him that Mr. Lankester enjoyed the respect and esteem of his many friends in as great a degree as did Lord Beaconsfield that of his friends, although he was Prime Minister of England.

Mr. Lankester feelingly acknowledged the gift.

The Rev. Mr. Cohen said he could bear testimony to the earnestness with which Mr. Lankester carried out his onerous duties.

The Chairman then distributed a number of engravings to those boys and girls who had conducted themselves well in service. Some of the girls had been in their situations for over three years.

The meeting was addressed by Mr. Curtis, Mr. Kirkham, and others.

GRAY'S YARD RAGGED CHURCH AND SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of this Institution, which has long been carrying on excellent work among the destitute poor in James Street, Oxford Street, was held on May 21, in the Stafford Rooms, Tichborne Street. The chair was taken by Lord Leigh, who, in his opening remarks said that the question "Where do the poor go to church?" was answered at Gray's Yard, where every Sunday morning such a crowd of destitute persons as could hardly be equalled anywhere in London assembled at a religious service, after which a pound of bread was given to each of the poor people who were present, thus relieving the pangs of hunger which had reduced some of them almost to the verge of starvation. This practice had been disapproved of; but his lordship defended it, on the ground that it was one of the first principles of Christianity to minister to the temporal wants of the poor and suffering. The conductors of this institution, he thought, were only following the example of our Saviour when He fed the five thousand. His lordship said that he was thoroughly well acquainted with the admirable work carried on in Gray's Yard, both in connection with the Ragged Church and Ragged Schools, and he could safely affirm that the discipline in the latter was quite equal to that in much more pretentious schools.

We may here mention that the late Dr. Guthrie described the congregation assembled here every Sunday morning as follows:—"Beggars, thieves, and ruffians, hoary and youthful vice, ragged forms, crushed and wretched and hopeless-looking beings, homeless and houseless wanderers, many of whom looked as if their hearts had never beat with hope, nor their countenances been lighted by a smile! We never saw such a congregation, nor rose to speak under such depression."

The report presented by the hon. secretary, Mr. Joseph Edmunds, was taken as read. It is full of interesting details of work done, and well worthy of perusal.

The speakers were Mark J. Stewart,

Esq., M.P., Mr. Curtis, Rev. J. Diggle, Mr. S. G. Sheppard, Rev. Donald Fraser, Rev. Lloyd Harris, and Mr. Woods.

EXETER BUILDINGS.

The annual meeting of this school was held on April 16, in the school-room, which was profusely decorated with mottoes. A large number of useful and ornamental articles which had been made by the scholars were exhibited round the room—the girls showing examples of needlework, knitting, &c., and the boys models of cabinet work, designs in cork, fretwork, &c., bearing evidence that they had been carefully trained in industrial pursuits.

The chair was taken by Robert Paton, Esq., and Mr. Rhind, the secretary, read the report. It stated that the Day School had been discontinued by the action of the School Board, but the committee had determined to carry on the Night and Industrial School with increased energy. The attendance had been good, and the boys diligent and well-conducted, evidently glad to avail themselves of the opportunity which the school afforded them of acquiring knowledge, the absence of which they found to militate against their advancement as they set out in life. An Institute for Working Lads had also been established, and was going on satisfactorily.

The Sunday School was reported to be in a prosperous condition, with an average attendance of 145 scholars and 16 teachers. The Penny Bank, now in its twenty-first year, continued to be of great service to the scholars and others, and the deposits during the year amounted to about £270. The Mothers' Meetings and other agencies in connection with the school were all in good working condition. The speakers were Rev. G. W. Weldon, Rev. C. A. Fox, Rev. F. White, Mr. J. D. Smith, and Mr. Curtis.

KENTISH TOWN—OLD SCHOLARS' MEETING.

One of these most interesting gatherings was recently held in the Kentish Town Ragged School. The room was tastefully decorated, and was so full of old scholars, both male and female, that it was a difficulty to find room for visitors.

The meeting was presided over by Henry Spalding, Esq., who defrayed the cost of an abundant tea, wherewith the old scholars were regaled. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. Spalding, Pearce, Gunn, Shirley, and James.

Mr. James is the superintendent of this work, and hundreds of poor boys thank God for sending such a loving friend amongst them.

GLO'STER HOUSE MISSION AND SCHOOLS.

On Thursday, June 13th, Mr. Alderman Cotton, M.P., presided at a large gathering of scholars and friends. The special feature of the evening was a distribution of prizes by the alderman to the boys and girls of the Week Evening Schools. The report of Mr. Smith (head master of the Charterhouse Schools), the examiner, was read by Mr. S. Mather. The prizes were books, desks, work-boxes, and knives. Recitations and sweet song enlivened the evening. The chairman spoke in high praise of the entire work, and hoped that it might be more widely known, and more generously supported. Mr. Curtis said the work done was as honest a piece of work as is done anywhere in London, and was presided over by a noble and self-sacrificing man. Funds are much needed. Address, S. Mather, Glo'ster House, White Cross Street, St. Luke's.